close vigil to ensure the best interests of adopted children. Continuous contact is maintained with the foreign Governments through Indian Missions and concerned agencies to ensure the welfare of the children.

**New Mission for Secondary Education**

†*527. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new mission for secondary education is needed to be set up on the pattern of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Mission;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that approximately 2.8 crore children are now registered for the secondary education;

(d) if not, the actual number thereof in the year 2004-05; and

(e) the number of such children estimated to be in the year 2010-11 and the existing number of children in the age group of 14—18 years not registered in the schools?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) With the universalisation of primary education, it is expected that the demand for secondary education in the country will increase in future. The Government has re-constituted the Central Advisory Board on Education and a sub committee constituted by it is considering the various aspects of universalisation of secondary education. The report of the committee is awaited.

(c) and (d) According to the "Provisional Statistics" report of the 7th Survey (reference date September 30, 2002) 2.18 crore children in class IX-X and 1.14 crore in XI and XII were enrolled.

(e) According to a prelimary projection made by the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), assuming that the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan will fully achieve its targets, approximately 4.6 crore children by 2010 will require enrolment in grades IX-X. The data regarding the existing number of children in the age group of 14 — 18 years not registered in schools is not maintained centrally.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.